



# Architecture After Comfort

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Entwerfen ● 253.K38 ● 10 ECTS ● WS 2023  
Kick-Off ● Thu 05.10.2023 ● 14:00 - 18:00 ● HS 14  
Regular meetings ● Thu 14:00 - 19:00  
Midterm Presentation ● Thu 21.12.2023  
Final Presentation ● Thu 21.12.2023

Open-air workshop outside of the city  
27.11.2023 - 8.12.2023

### COMFORT & CARBON

As inhabitants of the so called developed world, we take the privilege of thermal comfort – or “feeling free of physical constraint” – as a given condition within the spaces we populate. Comfort is a modern and fairly recent idea. Ranging from your favorite one-click-away food delivery service to self-cleaning ovens.

Comfort is a commodity high in demand. HVAC infrastructures (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) are engrained into the very body of our buildings and with them the fuels that feed them, and the carbon emissions that result.

Thermal comfort and the devices that regulate interior conditioning are of specific interest for architecture as it organizes and aestheticizes the connection between comfort and carbon.

### RENEGOTIATING STANDARDS

Architecture is in a peculiar situation to on one side be bound to legal frameworks, while at the same time expected to challenge them. Political bodies and industry-based interest groups (ASHRAE, REHVA, etc.) regulate (and therefore define) how architecture should perform.

There is an urgency to rethink and possibly replace the underlying assumptions and standardizing models governing the thermal envelope of buildings. The task of design in this context is to formulate alternative scenarios – allowing for a more diverse range of possibilities of how we relate to space, by rethinking comfort.

Rather than seeing this new sobriety as set back, new possibilities and ways of living are to be discovered. In diversifying our thermal relationships with the spaces we inhabit, we potentially are one step closer to a post-carbon future.

### DESIGN FOR DISCOMFORT

Coming to terms with the established regime of thermal comfort – the systems and resources that sustain it we will explore the potential (and possible necessity) of a design for discomfort.

The nature of this semesters course is that of experimentation. Our main task will be to test this proposition by conducting a hands-on building workshop on site. The exercise lies in physically understanding our own energy consumption in regard to our bodies and the tasks necessary to construct space.